

During the last three years, President Chen and the people of Taiwan continue the practice of democracy in their country. Today Taiwan has free elections at every level, a free press, and the highest regard for human rights. Taiwan has set a good example for neighboring Asian nations, and other countries around the world, to follow.

President Chen has, on many occasions, stressed that Taiwan and neighboring countries must work together to discuss issues of mutual interests. Any progress toward improved relationships between nations along the Pacific Rim must ensure the interests of the 23 million people living in the Republic of China.

I have enjoyed working with Taiwan's Representative in Washington, Ambassador C.J. Chen. He and his aides do a good job of informing Congress of developments in Taiwan.

As the people of Taiwan prepare to celebrate their president's third anniversary in office, I hope Taiwan will find success in gaining observer status at the World Health Organization this May. As the outbreak of SARS threatens Asia and the world, Taiwan should be included in World Health Organization activities.

Secretary of State Colin Powell recently said, "infectious disease . . . requires an effective and coordinated response at local, national and international levels." SARS is a harsh reminder to the world that diseases know no border, and we must have an effective international coalition to combat SARS, and other infectious diseases we have yet to discover.

Taiwan has been affected by SARS; it is only right to include them in the global campaign against it.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the people of Taiwan for their continuing experiment with democracy. As we have noted before: in a democracy, it is not the first election that defines a democracy . . . it is all those that follow.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS SECURITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 866, the Wastewater Treatment Works Security Act of 2003, and I commend Chairman YOUNG for sponsoring this important legislation. H.R. 866 authorizes the EPA Administrator to issue grants for vulnerability assessments and security enhancements at our publicly owned treatment works facilities. In addition, the legislation calls on the Administrator to provide much needed technical assistance regarding security measures that can be made to our smaller publicly owned treatment works facilities, that is facilities that serve less than 20,000 people. Lastly, the bill provides critical funding for the improvement of the methodologies and tools used to carry out wastewater vulnerability assessments.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that our wastewater treatment facilities are properly protected and secure is a crucial aspect of enhancing our Homeland Security. A terrorist attack on a

public treatment facility could be devastating. I commend Chairman YOUNG for his hard work on this legislation, and his efforts to draw attention to the need to improve the security of wastewater treatment facilities.

HONORING CENTER HIGH SCHOOL'S "TOP 10" SENIORS

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the talents and efforts of Center High School's "Top Ten" Academic Seniors for the 2002–2003 school year. These students have an unweighted, cumulative grade point average of between 3.88 and 4.0. These outstanding students have been accepted at the University of California—Los Angeles, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, University of the Pacific, Stanford, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and Brigham Young University.

Each of these students were honored at a scholarship dinner on Monday, April 28, 2003, where they were each presented with \$200 scholarships made possible by community donations, and publicly recognized for their academic achievements.

I am very proud of these young men and woman. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Valerie Vinco, Navneet Riar, Tara Dougherty, Natalie Ramirez, Erin Baccay, Dieu-Huyen Nguyen, Adam Luber, Maybelline Disuanco, Kimberly Johnson, and Sabre Shin.

WISCONSIN THANKS JUSTICE WILLIAM BABLITCH FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor my friend and former colleague, Justice William A. Bablitch, as he celebrates 35 years of service to the people of Wisconsin.

Long known as a vigilant champion of the underprivileged, Justice Bablitch began serving others early in life. At the age of twenty-two, he traveled to Liberia in Western Africa with the Peace Corps, and spent his tour teaching young pupils in a local elementary school. Struck by the conditions that his students endured daily, he returned to his home state impassioned to work on behalf of the public and to study law at the University of Wisconsin.

After receiving his Juris Doctorate in 1968, the Justice spent three years as a District Attorney, during the tumultuous times of the student-led Vietnam protests. By working with the administration of the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point and the Sheriff's Department of Stevens Point, he helped ensure that in the wake of the Kent State Massacre violence or bloodshed did not erupt at UWSP.

In 1973, Bill turned his talents to representing the people of Portage County in the Wisconsin State Senate where I had the es-

teemed pleasure of serving with him. A strong advocate for civil and human rights, Senator Bablitch pushed for legislation reform in discrimination, sexual assault, child abuse, and divorce law. His role as majority leader paved the way for public accessibility to Wisconsin government by creation of Wisconsin's Open Meeting and campaign reform laws.

Always a defender of social justice, Justice Bablitch's career has been highlighted by his twenty years in the Wisconsin Supreme Court where he has fought for the protection of consumers, the environment, and a patient's right to know.

While away from the office, Bill spends time with his wife, Anne, daughter, Bulleh, and granddaughters, Layteh and Nancy, at his homes in Northern Wisconsin and Hawaii. Whether fly-fishing with family and friends or cooking a meal for them, he has filled the lives of those around him with laughter and happiness.

Justice William Bablitch's retirement is certainly well deserved, but his leadership and passion for serving the best interests of Wisconsin citizens will be truly missed. Congratulations, my friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF LOUISE DANKBERG ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Louise Dankberg on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. Dankberg is an incomparable leader who has consistently contributed to our community for over three decades in notable ways.

After 34 years, serving in a variety of positions, Ms. Dankberg is retiring from the New York State Department of Labor. Among her many achievements during her tenure, Ms. Dankberg has served as Loaned Executive to State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) of United Way, where she raised over \$750,000 in six campaigns in 51 state agencies. As Executive Administrative Assistant to the New York City Director, Ms. Dankberg was responsible for major decisions of staff changes and successfully developed communications between branch offices and district managers. She also supervised 125 professional and support staff while serving as Job Service Supervisor. In addition, Ms. Dankberg acted to resolve issues, train new staff, and corresponded on behalf of the Governor and Commissioner of Labor in her role as Unemployment Insurance Supervisor of Telephone Call Center.

Through a variety of professional and civic activities, Ms. Dankberg has touched countless lives in the New York area. Ms. Dankberg has been very active within the New York State government. She has been the Female District Leader of the 74th Assembly District since 1993 and a New York State County Committee Member since 1973. She served as the Beth R. Cosnow Memorial Chairperson and as a New York State Committeewoman in 1993, and worked as a delegate to Supreme Court Judicial Conventions from 1971 to 1993. For over thirty years she has been a liaison with elected officials for the community

and has served various positions in the Samuel J. Tilden Democratic Club, including president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and membership and program committees chairperson.

Ms. Dankberg has also been a campaign manager for various judicial campaigns for Supreme and Civil Courts, as well as a member for the 14th Congressional District Caucus and the Policy, Executive, and New York County Democratic Committees. Her contributions to the community include numerous community forums, street fairs, and political debates.

An eminent civic leader, Ms. Louise Dankberg has held positions in many organizations, such as the International Association of Personnel in Employment Security, the Public Employees Federation, of which she was a founding member, the Organization of Management Confidential Employees, the Center for Women in Government, Mission Employment Jobathons, and the Job Service Improvement Program. Through these various associations, Ms. Dankberg has played a significant role in aiding the community with issues concerning employment.

In addition to being a leader of organizations, Ms. Dankberg is a staunch community advocate, bringing local issues to surface. She is a founding member of the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council and the East Side Rezoning Alliance. Ms. Dankberg is also an active member of Gramercy Neighborhood Associates, the Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood Association, the 22nd Street Block Association, and the Manhattan Neighborhood Council. She is a co-chairperson of the Neighborhood Advisory Board, which donates to target groups through the New York City Division of Youth and Community Development.

Fortunately for all of us, Ms. Dankberg is merely retiring from the New York State Department of Labor and not from public life.

In recognition of her outstanding accomplishments, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Louise Dankberg on the occasion of her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LUIS A. ROSERO

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Luis A. Rosero a dedicated and noteworthy public servant from Queens, New York.

Luis A. Rosero engages our society with enthusiasm and vigor. From humble beginnings in Queens, NY, Luis Rosero has dedicated himself to a career in public service, protecting the rights of all citizens in the democratic process. Luis fights for what is good in our world.

Since my arrival in Congress at the beginning of this year, Luis has ably served the people of the First Congressional District of New York as my District Office Director. He has offered his years of experience to develop a new office, train new employees and manage the multi-faceted challenges of a busy New York office. Luis has offered comfort and assistance to my constituents, whether they need intervention with a federal agency, an answer to a vexing question of policy or someone to simply hear their concerns.

Luis' passion and energy have also made him a known and appreciated individual to his neighbors in his home community, and they now call him back to represent them as a New York City Councilman.

Many individuals aspire to make positive changes in the community in which they live, though some fail in their efforts through a lack of dedication and perseverance. Luis has the qualities of a leader and a deep belief in our system of government: I believe he will not fail to meet the demands of a public he has dedicated himself to serve.

I extend my best wishes and support for Luis Rosero in all of his future endeavors. I am sorry to see him leave my staff, but I am grateful for his efforts and I know he will go on to do great things. I wish Luis many years of good fortune and service to the public.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in wishing Luis A. Rosero the best of luck in all of his endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge May 7th as National School Nurse Day.

There are approximately 60,000 registered nurses in public school systems across the country caring for more than 52 million students. Professional school nurses strengthen and facilitate our educational process by improving and protecting the health status of children and youth through prevention, detection and correction methods. School nurses work diligently in the school environment, serving not only our children and youth but also their teachers, community, state, and nation to provide valuable school health services.

School nurses have assisted our children for many years, and The National Association of School Nurses, the professional organization of school nurses, is celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary this year.

Frequently, the only health care attention a child receives is through a school nurse. Our nation's children face an increasing number of chronic and severe health problems, from diabetes to asthma, obesity, depression and other mental and physical health problems. School nurses assist these children with their health problems so children can remain in school and achieve success.

School nurses also care for a large number of children with chronic and severe health problems, including children in wheelchairs, on ventilatory support or with special health procedures. School nurses provide direct services to them from initial assessment and diagnosis to treatment and maintenance so disabled children can learn and achieve academic success.

After September 11th, school nurses had to take on additional new roles. If another bioterrorism event takes place, school nurses may be the first health care responders that will cope with symptoms of a chemical, radiological or other event as well as providing the necessary treatments and emergency evacuations.

School nurses are unsung heroes as they both effectively and efficiently meet the daily and emergency needs of the student populations they serve.

Professional school nurses have touched the lives of students throughout our great nation for over a century, and we commend them on their continued contributions to the development of our young people.

I urge all Americans to recognize the important contributions that school nurses make toward the health and well-being of our children and youth. National School Nurse Day is a wonderful way to commend them on their years of diligent efforts to keep our children healthy and safe in school.

CLEAN SMOKESTACKS ACT OF 2003

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am again joining with Representative BOEHLERT in introducing the "Clean Smokestacks Act of 2003." This important legislation will finally clean up the nation's dirty, antiquated power plants.

When I originally introduced the "Clean Smokestacks Act" with Representative BOEHLERT in the 106th Congress, we had a modest beginning. We had a total of 15 cosponsors and little attention.

But by the end of the 107th Congress, the bill's supporters had grown to 135 House members. Senator JEFFORDS had successfully reported the companion legislation, the "Clean Power Act." And even the Bush Administration, at least in rhetoric, recognizes that we urgently need to clean up these power plants.

Electricity generation is our nation's single largest source of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Nationally, power plants are responsible for about 35 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, 64 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions, 23 percent of nitrogen oxides emissions and 33 percent of mercury emissions.

These four pollutants are the major cause of some of the most serious environmental problems the nation faces, including acid rain, smog, respiratory illness, mercury contamination, and global warming. If we are going to improve air quality and reduce global warming, we must curb the emissions from these power plants.

When the original Clean Air Act was enacted in 1970, the electric utility industry argued that stringent controls should not be imposed on the oldest, dirtiest plants since they would soon be replaced by new state-of-the-art facilities. Although Congress acceded to these arguments and shielded old power plants from the law's requirements, many of these facilities—which were already old in 1970—are still in use. In some cases, power plants from 1922 are still in operation and have never had to meet the environmental requirements that a new facility would.

As a result, a single plant in the Midwest can emit as much NO_x pollution as the entire state of Massachusetts.

The Clean Smokestacks Act says it is time to clean up these aging plants. The Act sets strong emissions reduction requirements for all four of the key pollutants from power plants,